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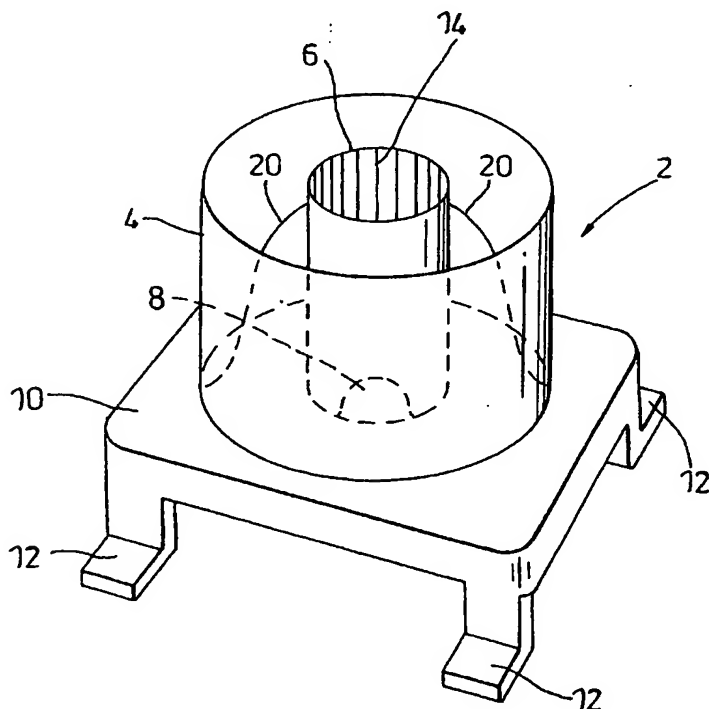
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(54) Title: **TREE STANDS**

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including tree gripping means, wherein the tree gripping means comprise at least one projection. The invention further provides a tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member, wherein strengthening means are provided between the fluid reservoir and the tree retaining member. The invention further provides a tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including use, to maintain separation between at least part of the end of the tree retained by the tree retaining member and (20) a base portion of the tree retaining member.

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